

FOES DEMAND ASQUITH QUIT THE CABINET

Fierce Political Battle Over Conscription of Married Men Likely to Result in a Crisis.

GERMANS REPORT DUEL OF ARTILLERY INCREASING

Fighting Grows Fiercer in Champagne and Argonne. Russians Begin Campaign to Regain Vilna.

International News Service:

LONDON, March 24.—For the second time since the outbreak of the war political enemies of Premier Asquith are trying to overthrow the cabinet. Taking advantage of the critical situation brought about by the movement to compel the enlistment of married men, the political foes of the premier are making strong attacks against him.

All the newspapers today commented at length upon the political outlook, some of them going so far as to predict that a crisis cannot be averted.

Lord Derby and David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions, are among the foremost leaders of the movement to extend conscription to married men, but the scheme has been consistently opposed by the premier.

The Morning Post openly demands the resignation of the premier. If Mr. Asquith refuses to resign, says the Morning Post, he should be forced out of office for the national good.

The Times also delivered a severe attack against the prime minister.

ARTILLERY DUEL RAGES. BERLIN, March 24.—The artillery duel on the Somme-Py-Souain highway in Champagne and in the Argonne has increased in violence. The German war office announced today.

In the district between the Meuse and Moselle rivers the Germans have occupied a couple of trenches. West of Haucourt, on the Verdun front, the number of prisoners in the hands of the Germans has been increased to 32 officers and 879 men.

The attacks of the Russians have been repulsed, it is stated. On the Balkan front, artillery duelling is reported. An allied aeroplane was shot down into Lake Otranto, on the border of Greece and Serbia.

Following is the full text of the official report:

"West front: The activity of the artillery on the high road of Somme-Py in Champagne and in the Argonne has increased in violence. In the district between the Meuse and Moselle rivers we have occupied a couple of trenches. West of Haucourt the prisoners in our hands have been increased to 32 officers and 879 men. East front: Strong Russian assaults have been directed against our bridgehead position at Takhodstad.

"East of Burchhof the Russians attacked repeatedly our positions north of the Mitan-Jakobstad railway. They also attempted to surprise us south of Dvinsk. The attacking forces gradually exhausted themselves. North of Wilna the Russians delivered an uninterrupted series of storm attacks. All the attacks of the enemy failed under our fire or broke down before our barbed wire entanglements.

"Further to the south there were no fresh assaults. Balkan front: During the past few days there has been moderate activity by the artillery on both sides of the Vardar river in the district around Guegli. A squadron of enemy aeroplanes attacked Avolove. One was shot down on the west side of Lake Doiran, the machine and its occupants falling into the water."

TRY TO REGAIN VILNA. PETROGRAD, March 24.—Recapture of the important railway city of Vilna from the Germans is one of the chief objectives of the great drive which has been commenced by the Russians.

Vilna lies in the center of a network of railroads and its loss would be a serious blow to Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

Two big battles are developing on Russian soil. One on the Dvina river and the other southeast of Vilna. The Germans are mainly on the defensive although they have delivered some stubborn counterattacks in the lake district in front of Dvinsk where they are striving to hold their strong positions.

The Germans are said to have from eight to 18 army corps massed along the northern end of the east front, although it is known that recently some of these troops have been withdrawn for service at Verdun.

HOLD-UP MEN ESCAPE

After Revolver Duel With Policemen in Chicago.

CHICAGO, March 24.—Two hold-up men, rushing out of a saloon early today, engaged in a revolver duel with Policemen John McShea and Richard Garmy. Both policemen were dangerously wounded and the holdup men escaped.

The two men had robbed the cash drawer in Henry Rodemich's saloon, and in a spirit of bravado one of the robbers fired his revolver in the air. This attracted the policemen.

TO DISCUSS FIGHT FOR CHEAPER GAS

South Bend and Mishawaka People Called to Mass Meeting Tuesday.

Mayor Fred W. Keller and Mayor Ralph Gaylor have called a mass meeting of citizens of South Bend and Mishawaka to be held Tuesday night in the council chambers of the South Bend city hall to discuss the fight being waged for lower gas rates in the two cities. The announcement of the mass meeting was made here Friday morning by Mayor Keller after a conference with Mayor Gaylor and the South Bend executive urged that as many citizens as possible attend the session.

At the present time there is a petition before the Indiana public utilities commission asking that a valuation of the property and assets of the Northern Indiana Gas & Electric Co., be made and the gas rate set. This petition was filed with the commission two years ago but is still on file, other matters having occupied the body's attention in the meantime. Mayor Keller pointed out Friday morning that the commission has been very busy, being flooded with similar petitions but believes that some action can be secured in the near future. He commented graciously upon the manner and time spent upon the electric light question by the commission.

"We want to get the sentiment of the people of South Bend and Mishawaka regarding the fight for lower rates," Mayor Keller explained. He informed that, unless the administrative bodies were given some token by which they could be assured of support that the effort for lower rates would be allowed to remain dormant.

The gas rate in South Bend is \$1 net, he stated. "In Evansville and Fort Wayne it is but 85 cents. In Terre Haute it is 90 cents and in Indianapolis 55 cents."

There has been considerable agitation for a long time regarding a change in the gas rate and the action taken by the commission in the electric case has permitted the South Bend men to hope for a lower charge from the Northern Indiana Gas & Electric Co.

SHACKELTON BACK FROM ANTARCTIC

Achievements of Polar Expedition Curtailed by Intervention of Big War.

International News Service:

SYDNEY, N. S. W., March 24.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, has returned from his Antarctic expedition. No news has been given out as to the achievements of the journey toward the south pole.

Lieut. Shackleton's expedition planned the biggest polar journey ever attempted by an explorer. Part of the expedition sailed for Ross sea on the Aurora, but Lieut. Shackleton and the remaining members of the party sailed from Liverpool for Buenos Ayres on Sept. 19, 1914. On Oct. 26 they set out from Argentina for the Weddell sea on board the Endurance. The original plan was for the Shackleton party to cross the Antarctic ice over the south pole to Ross sea, a distance of 1,700 miles, the two sections of the expedition to meet in April, 1915.

Upon reaching South Georgia, a cold, barren island in the South Atlantic in November, 1914, Sir Ernest found that ice conditions were such that he could not carry out his plan and the expedition suffered a long delay in consequence.

In his parting message from South Georgia, Lieut. Shackleton said he hoped to complete his work of exploration so as to be able to return early in 1916.

The object of the expedition was to explore the vast Antarctic continent, search for new land and inquire into the mineral deposits. The party took 70 dogs with it and several motor sledges. The war caused a rearrangement of some of the plans as it greatly increased the cost of certain necessary supplies. A large number of scientific instruments had been ordered in Germany and of course these could not be delivered.

The Endurance had three bases in the Antarctic and wintered at the South Shetlands.

WOMAN ADDS NEW ANGLE TO MURDER CASE

Beauty With Whom Dr. Waite, Accused of Murdering, Lived at Plaza Hotel Suddenly Disappears.

WIFE OF ACCUSED MAN COMES TO HIS DEFENSE

She Refuses to Believe He Would Murder Her Parents to Obtain Fortune of Grand Rapids Merchant.

International News Service:

NEW YORK, March 24.—While Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, who is charged with the murder of his millionaire father-in-law, John E. Peck of Grand Rapids, Mich., was slowly recovering today from the effect of



John E. Peck, millionaire manufacturer and merchant, whose death is subject of poison inquiry.

the drugs which he had taken yesterday, overtures were made to the district attorney's office for the surrender of a handsome young woman who has become involved in the case through her friendship with Waite.

The woman, who is described as being 24 and possessing extraordinary beauty, lived at the Hotel Plaza as "Mrs. Walters."

Dist. Atty. Swann said that if Dr. Waite was able he would be arraigned on the charge of murder some time during the day.

Waite told the detectives that he had taken trional and sulphonal "in order to get some sleep," but the police believe that Waite may have tried to take his life.

It was not until early this morning that Waite learned he was under arrest. Waite made no answer when told of the charges against him, but persistently asked for his wife.

Raymond C. Schindler, head of the detective agency which investigated the Peck case, told today of trailing Waite.

"Our investigation proves that Waite's expenses were very high," said the detective. "He bought a handsome touring car and his apartments in the Coleman apartment house rent for \$200 a month. His stay at the Plaza hotel with a woman cost him \$250 for room rent alone and what he spent at restaurants and in gifts for his companion must have been very high.

Two Wealthy Victims of Grand Rapids Poison Case



Mrs. John E. Peck.

TWO KILLED AND ONE BADLY HURT

When Eastern Flyer on Grand Trunk Strikes Coal Train Near Port Credit.

International News Service:

TORONTO, Ont., March 24.—Two trainmen were killed, one was badly hurt and another is missing today as the result of a collision between the eastern flyer on the Grand Trunk railway and a coal train at a siding a mile east of Port Credit last night.

The passenger train was bound from Chicago to Montreal. The dead: Harry Overend, engineer; W. O. Anderson, fireman. The injured: Ed O'Hanahan, fireman, broken ribs, internal injuries, injuries on head, Chicago; Ward, brakeman.

Overend, engineer of the passenger was found beneath his engine with his hand on the throttle, having struck to his post to the last. Fireman Anderson was on the freight train. Hanahan was fireman on the passenger train.

George Dennis, engineer on the freight train, escaped injury solely because at the time of the accident he was off his engine investigating the fact that three cars on the rear of his train had broken loose and were still on the main line, while the rest of his train was on the siding.

PERSHING USES RAILROAD TO OUTFLANK VILLA

American Arriving From Casas Grandes Says Carranzistas Gave Permission.

International News Service:

EL PASO, Tex., March 24.—Gen. Pershing, commanding the expedition into Mexico, used the Mexican Northwestern railroad last Sunday to transport the troops that outflanked Francisco Villa and drove him into El Paso, according to J. C. Robinson, who arrived here today from Casas Grandes, with several other Americans. Military authorities here have given out no information concerning such a move by Gen. Pershing.

Robinson says the road was used by permission of the Carranzista commander. In his flight south, Villa passed within a half mile of the Carranza garrison which failed to give him battle.

Reports reaching Casas Grandes say Villa is slaughtering ranchers as he flees.

INCREASES REWARD.

International News Service: CHICAGO, March 24.—Barnett Matthews, father of "Sonny" Matthews, who has been missing for several weeks, today increased his reward for information leading to the return of the boy from \$500 to \$1,000.

BRINGS NEWS OF U. S. FIGHT WITH VILLA

Courier From Front Declares Cavalrymen Have Engaged Bandit's Troops East of Namiquipa.

CARRANZISTAS ARE GIVING COOPERATION

Gen. Pershing and Gen. Bertani of First Chief's Forces Confer on Plan of Campaign.

International News Service:

EL PASO, Texas, March 24.—A worn and dusty courier brought into Juarez early today a report that American troops had engaged Francisco Villa's main force five miles east of Namiquipa. The scene of the battle, he said, was El Oso ranch which is skirted by a narrow road that runs southward from Las Cruces to Choyas. The courier confirmed the announcement made by Gen. Gavieta at midnight that Villa had been surrounded by American and Carranza troops and that a general attack would be made on the bandit leader's position at dawn.

Villa, the courier said, had selected a fine position in which to give battle, being on a small plateau between the Rio de Santa Maria and the Rio del Carmen. It was to this position that Villa fell back after he had met defeat in a skirmish with Carranzista troops at Santa Gertrudis ranch, southeast of Namiquipa. The courier also confirmed reports that Gen. Pershing and Gen. Bertani, commander of the Carranza field forces, were cooperating fully and that the arrangements for the attack on Villa had been made at a conference between the two leaders at Namiquipa yesterday afternoon.

Conference Informal. This conference, he said, was wholly informal. The two dust-covered commanders shook hands as they met and discussed the proposed movements in the shade of an adobe hut. When they parted, according to the courier, Pershing returned to his field headquarters.

The announcement that Villa had been forced to stand at bay at El Oso was received by the military authorities at Fort Bliss, Gen. Bell's headquarters, as an indication that the bandit leader's plan to escape had at least been thwarted for the time being. The road that runs south to Choyas forms a junction at that town with two other roads, one running southeast, the other southwest. If he were able to reach Choyas, Villa could divide his force there and confuse his pursuers as to which trail he had taken, with the probability that they would have to divide their forces also. Villa's delight in to weaken his enemies in this fashion and then make a sudden attack.

Though Villa in person was reported at El Oso ranch it was difficult to believe that the "fox of the Sierra Madre mountains" had allowed himself to be trapped so early in the campaign. Other rumors had Villa at other points. Jose Garcia Flores reached El Paso with the story that Villa himself had stopped a train at Monterrey half way between Chihuahua and Juarez, and had searched the train for Americans.

Says He Saw Villa. "I know Villa well and I saw him," said Flores. "He told every one that Luis Herrera had joined him to fight the common enemy and that Gen. Gano also would fight under his command.

Efforts will be made today by Andres Garcia, Mexican consul, to effect the release from El Paso Jail of Malcher Herrera, brother of the general reported leading the mutiny against Carranza in Chihuahua.

Despite series of denials from official Mexican sources, reports persisted that Gen. Herrera had quit Chihuahua with 2,000 troops to take the field "against the common enemy" and in Mexico "the common enemy" is the United States.

SAYS VILLA IS TRAPPED.

International News Service: COLUMBUS, N. M., March 24.—J. C. Marlowe, one of the civilian guides of the American column, returned to Columbus today with the declaration that the pursuit of Francisco Villa may terminate successfully in a brief time.

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PROGRESS of the War

International News Service:

PARIS, March 24.—French artillery during the night directed a terrific bombardment against the German positions in Malscourt wood. Since the Germans established themselves in this forest the well directed fire of the French gunners have kept them from advancing on the Verdun front.

The official communique issued by the war office this afternoon states that quiet prevailed during the night about the positions on the west bank of the Meuse, but there was an intermittent cannonade on the east bank.

International News Service:

ROME, March 24.—Premier Salandra left for the front today to hold a final conference with King Victor Emmanuel before going to Paris to attend the grand allied council of war. Baron Sonnino, the foreign minister, and Signor Delio, minister of ammunition, will leave tomorrow for Turin where they will meet Premier Salandra and all will proceed to Paris together.

International News Service:

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—Heavy cannonading indicating that a naval battle was in progress was heard off Ostend and Westende in the North sea last night.

International News Service:

ROME, March 24.—The Tribune learned from a high diplomatic source that Roumania has consented to enter the war on the side of the allies as soon as the Anglo-French forces in the Balkans open their offensive against the Germans and Bulgarians. Roumania has secured large supplies of arms and ammunition from Japan, securing them by way of Vladivostok.

International News Service:

BERLIN, (via Sayville by wire-les) March 24.—Official announcement was made today through the Overseas News agency that 400,000 tons of corn, wheat and peas have been bought in Roumania for consumption in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The Roumanian government has promised to expedite the shipment of grain.

The foregoing is at variance with reports that Roumania contemplates entrance into the war on the side of the allies.

QUARRY BLAST INJURES THREE

4,500 Pounds of Dynamite Explodes While Being Heated by Steam.

International News Service:

GREENSBORO, N. C., March 24.—Three men were injured and thousands of dollars in damage resulted when 4,500 pounds of dynamite, stored in a quarry two miles southwest of here, exploded this morning. An effort was being made to heat the dynamite by steam pipes, but they became too warm.

The injured men are foreigners. That there were no many deaths was due to the fact the day force had not come on duty. The roof of the quarry, 200 feet away, was crushed by the flying stone. The plant is a wreck. Many windows in this city were broken by the explosion which shook the houses like an earthquake.

ERSKINE, IN LETTER TO LEAGUE, APPROVES BIG NAVY TO PROTECT COAST

WASHINGTON, March 24.—A letter from Albert Russell Erskine of South Bend, Ind., pointing out the necessity of a strong navy for this country, was made public today by the Navy League of the United States. Mr. Erskine was invited to become a delegate to the eleventh annual convention of the Navy League which is to be held in Washington at the new Willard hotel, April 10 to 13, but he will not be able to attend. In part the letter follows:

"I wish to express my sympathy with the plan of the Navy league for increasing our navy as quickly as possible and without delay up to the point recommended by the general board report of July 30, 1915. The welfare and safety of this country are dependent upon an adequate navy to protect its coasts and its territorial possessions. All public sentiment with which I am familiar is practically unanimous that this should be done regardless of the expense involved. What is a few billion dollars to this country in its present prosperous condition? It might almost be called a bagatelle, and the money would cheerfully and instantly be provided by the people, either or both through the purchase of bonds or the payment of increased taxes, if they be but given the opportunity."

GET LICENSE TO WED.

CHICAGO, March 24.—Claude O. Anderson and Frieda Werner, both of South Bend, obtained a license to wed here late Thursday.

LETCHER SAYS GEN. HERRERA STAYS LOYAL

U. S. Consul at Chihuahua Wires State Department Denying Rumors of Revolt Among Carranzistas.

MASSING OF FIRST CHIEF'S TROOPS CAUSES CONCERN

Americans Watch Concentration of Mexiacns Along Border With Growing Apprehension.

International News Service:

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Gen. Luis Herrera, Carranza's commander in the state of Chihuahua, has not deserted the first chief to lead his men under Villa, according to a telegram to the state department today from U. S. Consul Marion Letcher, at Chihuahua City.

Consul Letcher stated that Gen. Herrera is now at Chihuahua City, that he has not left there with his men, as reported, and that he and his garrison are loyal to the constitutional cause.

Consul Letcher's message, assuring the department that Herrera was loyal was the first word received from Chihuahua City in more than 48 hours, in fact, since the desertion of the Carranza general first was reported. The state and war departments made repeated efforts yesterday to get in communication with him, but all attempts failed. Grave fears had been felt for his safety; in view of the reports that Herrera had deserted.

Gen. Finston also wired the war department that his best information was that Herrera remains loyal to Carranza.

Gen. Finston's telegram follows: "Gen. Herrera in a telegram to Gen. Gavieta strongly denies all reports that he has gone over to Villa."

"Gen. Gutierrez, governor of Chihuahua, in a letter to Gen. Gavieta, also strongly denies that Gen. Herrera has gone over to Villa. (Signed) "FINSTON."

Has No Confirmation.

Although officials were very much interested over reports from the border that Villa was surrounded and had been attacked by Americans and Carranzistas, Secy Baker said on reaching his office that he had no confirmation whatever of the report from Gen. Finston.

While in no way questioning the good faith of Gen. Carranza, army officers today were studying the apparent massing of his forces at strategic points only a short march from the border. There is no way of ascertaining here whether these dispositions have been authorized directly by the "first chief" or whether they were ordered by his war secretary, Gen. Obregon, formerly an army commander-in-chief.

At least at half a dozen points more than five or six hours from the border, however, strong bodies of Carranzista troops are being held and it is admitted that they could cause very much trouble should a break between the United States and the de facto government in Mexico come.

It is understood that Gen. Finston quietly is securing data of the dispositions of these troops, their commanders and equipment. Meanwhile the border patrols on this side have been so adjusted as to be in readiness for any possible emergency. In addition the Pershing expedition has been so strengthened that it can maintain its positions for a reasonable length of time.

Want Guard Used.

Pressure is being brought to bring about the immediate use of the national guard on the border at the war department from a number of the states where the militia is anxious to see action.

Where plans are complete for the use of this auxiliary branch of the service when the need arises, officials say that no orders yet have been prepared. Throwing the militia into the field would be a very easy task, but Pres. Wilson still is strongly opposed to such action as he fears it would be a grave misunderstanding. It is for the same reason that he is opposing any agitation over Mexico by congress just now.

The United States coast guard is quietly getting into trim for possible action should a blockade of the Mexican coast be ordered. The coast guard has a record of great service during the Spanish-American war, and would be of great service if called on now. Their cutters could be quickly armed and sent to places where warships could not go. The apprehension in congress still continued today. Sen. Sherman was endeavoring to devise some method whereby he could get action on his resolution directing the calling for 50,000 volunteers, preferably from the national guard.

Republicans Join Forces. A number of republicans, including Sen. Lodge, have joined forces

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